

Sculptor chisels art from rock

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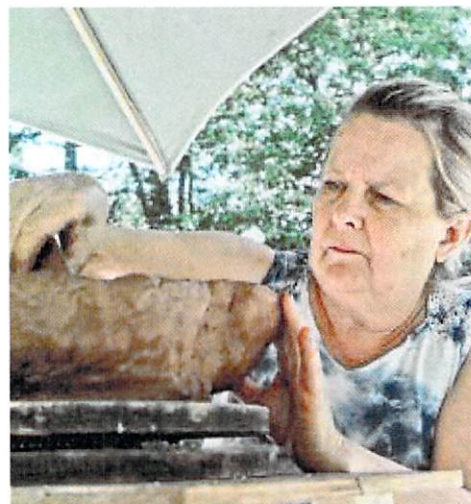
Kristine Brennen transitioned from rocket science to natural science. She once produced components for guided missiles, now she produces natural stone sculptures. Where some see granite, Brennen sees a bubbling bird bath. A small and unremarkable stone becomes a frog or seasoned old man. A long, thin rock emerges as a stately obelisk. Brennen is Duxbury's rock whisperer.

Brennen's midlife transformation from the military industrial complex to art sculptor began with a certificate from Boston's MFA School of Fine Arts and continued with an architecture degree from Massachusetts College of Art. She attributes her artistic DNA to her Grandfather an Immigrant from Sweden and a stone cutter. Quincy's Thomas Crane Library and the National Cathedral include his work. Brennen's husband Dick shares her enthusiasm. He has fashioned webs of rock paths and stone walls throughout their property.

When the Duxbury Free Library's reading garden opens this fall, it will include Brennen's art. She has a commission to create two stone benches, which will blend with the landscape.



Kristine Brennen demonstrates her excavator for a young neighbor.



Although rock sculpture is Brennen's major commitment, she also works in other media. Here she begins a clay sculpture.



Bob and Jane Hale's landscaping includes a rock garden designed by Brennen.



Brennen, her husband Dick, their dog Buck, and Buck's friend take a moment at a bench-in-progress which will eventually be at the Duxbury Free Library.

Other public examples of Brennen's art are at the Duxbury Art Complex and at the Duxbury public schools Outdoor Learning Area. She has also designed numerous pieces for private homes. Tools of her trade include an excavator and a bulldozer as well as chisels and grinders and safety glasses. Marlo Thomas included Brennen's story in her recent book about women who reinvented themselves and realized their dreams. Brennen likes to say that her stonework "facilitates the inevitable." Her life's path has also facilitated the inevitable.



A visit to some of Brennen's local installations reveals the artistry of her work and her personal pride and connection to each piece.

Story and photos by Mary Schiess